



Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Minutes

Jefferson County Courthouse

311 S Center Ave, Rm 203

Jefferson, WI 53549

Monday, November 09, 2015 @ 12:30 pm

Members: Margaret Burlingham (Chair), Walt Christensen (Vice Chair), Steve Nass (Secretary), Mariah Hadler, and Blane Poulson.

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Margaret Burlingham at 12:30 pm. Committee members Margaret Burlingham (Chair), Walt Christensen (Vice Chair), Steve Nass (Secretary), and Blane Poulson were present. Also in attendance were Jim Schroeder, County Board Chairman; Mark Watkins, Director Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Gerry Kokkonen, LWCD; and Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD. Mariah Hadler was excused.

2. Roll Call (Establish a Quorum):

A quorum was established.

3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law:

It was determined that the committee was in compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

4. Approval of the November Agenda:

The November agenda was reviewed by the committee members. No changes were proposed.

5. Approval of the October 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes:

Walt Christensen made a motion to approve the October 12, 2015 meeting minutes as written, Margaret Burlingham seconded. Motion carried 4/0.

6. Communications:

There were no communications at this time.

7. Public Comment:

There were no comments at this time.

8. Discussion on Rodell Lea's Easement Compliance:

Gerry Kokkonen cannot confirm that the building has been moved completely at this time, but the site shows evidence that it is in the process of being moved and all of the Zoning permits are in place. Margaret Burlingham will contact Rodell Lea for an update.

9. Discussion on Dale Neupert's Easement Compliance:

Nothing new at this time.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Burlingham Donated Easement:

Margaret Burlingham submitted a donated easement application. Steve Nass made a motion to accept the application with the easement language to mirror the previous donated easements on Burlingham's land, Blane Poulson seconded. Motion carried 3/0 with Margaret Burlingham abstaining.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications:

a. Greg Wilke, Town of Waterloo

Gerry Kokkonen; the barn foundation is in the process of being removed. Gerry Kokkonen will contact Kristin Westad with NRCS for a final inspection once there is confirmation that the foundation is gone and site is graded.

b. Cliff Haberman, Town of Milford

Gerry Kokkonen informed the commission that the survey for the old farmstead has been completed. Gerry Kokkonen will send the survey to NRCS for their review.

12. Discussion on Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Report on Baseline Documentation for Easements:

Gerry Kokkonen will update Cliff Haberman's baseline documents for NRCS review, Greg Wilke's baseline was ok'd by NRCS and will schedule time for Wilke and County signatures, will draw up baselines for the Burlingham donated easement, and will report back for the December meeting.

13. Discussion on the 2016 Budget:

Mark Watkins - Nothing new to report at this time.

14. Discussion on Strengthening Agricultural Enterprise Areas:

Blane Poulson - Nothing new to report at this time.

15. Discussion on Future Events that the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission would like to participate in and Community Outreach:

- 12/5/15 Fort Atkinson Winter Farmers Market - Walk Christensen will follow up.
- Brainstorm ways to get people involved, drum up interest in the program. What are other counties doing?
- Contact Jefferson County Daily Union and ask them to attend one of our meetings.
- Write a letter to the Jefferson County Daily Union outlining our program and its importance.

16. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Items # 8 - 15

17. Next Scheduled Meeting:

December 14, 2015@ 12:30 pm in Room 203.

18. Adjournment:

Walt Christensen made a motion to adjourn at 1:15 pm, Blane Poulson seconded. Motion carried 4/0.